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add, that I also employed M. Poinsot's beautiful theory of *couples*, which has introduced so much clearness into the fundamental doctrines of mechanics.

Mr. G. Wilkinson read a paper on the existence of the pointed arch in the early buildings of Ireland, prior to the introduction of Gothic architecture.

Mr. Petrie offered some remarks on Mr. Wilkinson's communication.

Dr. Allman noticed the occurrence in Ireland of *Fredericella Sultana*, and entered into certain details of its zoological and anatomical characters. This zoophyte has been very imperfectly described, and is moreover burthened with a discordant synonymy which has involved its history in no small obscurity. The difficulty which is thus necessarily connected with the attempt to determine the true *Fredericella Sultana*, Dr. Allman endeavoured to remove, by reducing to some sort of order the mass of synomynes in which it is involved. It would appear to be the *Tubularia Sultana* of Blumenbach, its original discoverer; the *Plumatella Gelatinosa* of Dr. Fleming; the *Plumatella Sultana* of Sir J. G. Dalzell; and the *Fredericella Sultana* of Gervais. It would appear also that the zoophyte described by Mr. Varley, in a late number of the London Physiological Journal, is the same as the present.

By some singular oversight, Dr. Fleming, in the description of his *Plumatella Gelatinosa*, refers to the *Tubularia Gelatinosa* of Pallas, described in the "Elenchus Zoophytarum." The *Tubularia Gelatinosa* of the Elenchus, however, is quite a different animal; it belongs to the group with crescentic disks, and is identical with the free variation of *Plumatella repens*.

The author, in entering into the details of its anatomical structure, drew attention to the high ascidiform type which

it presented. He also noticed a hyaloid membrane of great tenuity which surrounds the base of the tentacular plume, and extends upwards for about the fourth of the length of the plume, being adherent to the tentacula, and constituting a kind of calyciform appendage to the base of the crown.

He mentioned the existence of this calyciform membrane in *Plumatella* and *Cristatella*, but would not speak positively as to its presence in *Alcyonella*; from *Paludicella* it is certainly absent, a fact which, along with several others, tends to approach this elegant zoophyte to the marine *Ciliobrachiates*.

Dr. Allman also alluded to a singular valve-like organ with which the mouth is furnished, exactly similar to that found in *Plumatella*, and described by the Author at the late meeting of the British Association. This organ he has also detected in *Cristatella*.

Through the external tunic of the polypidom will be found scattered, numerous silicious particles of no definite figure, and the Author considered himself justified, from the observations which he had made upon the fresh-water zoophytes, to come to the general conclusion that in the corneous polypidom of these animals, silica replaces the calcareous deposits of the marine species.

February 26.

ROBERT BALL, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

The Secretary read a paper by the Rev. Dr. Hincks, "On the Defacement of Divine and Royal Names on Egyptian Monuments."

An attempt is made in this paper to specify the several occasions, on which the principal defacements of Egyptian